



CALIFORNIA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

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JOINT ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS DEMAND POSTPONEMENT OF UC ADMISSION CHANGES

SAN FRANCISCO – The Joint Asian Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus along with various community partners are urging the University of California (UC) Board of Regents to postpone the confirmation of a proposal to change the UC eligibility requirements. The Board of Regents of the University of California is planning to adopt the most significant structural changes to UC admission policies since the establishment of California's Master Plan for Higher Education in 1960. The Joint API Legislative Caucus is requesting more studies and public hearings to ensure the proposal will fulfill the University of California and California State Legislature's commitment to diversity.

The Joint API Legislative Caucus has specific reservations about how the new admissions proposals would decrease the percentages of Asian Pacific Islanders from 32.6% to 25.2% of the entire eligibility pool, including both guaranteed applicants and entitled to review applicants. The UC has not made available sufficient information on how or what aspects of the proposal would cause this decrease.

"Everything must be done to increase diversity at the University of California and this proposal could have the opposite effect," stated Assemblymember Ted Lieu (D – Torrance), Co-Chair of the API Legislative Caucus, "Such a dramatic system-wide policy change demands input from the public and it is imperative that this proposal be fully vetted by UC with the Legislature and civil rights and higher education organizations."

In a letter to the UC Regent, the Joint API Legislative Caucus has requested a more thorough evaluation of how the new SAT Reasoning Test conforms to UC testing policies needs to be conducted. Even though it was charged with producing a report by 2008, the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools never completed a formal evaluation of the new admissions test and its alignment with UC testing principles. A formal evaluation is necessary to ensure that the decision to use aptitude tests over achievement-oriented tests does not adversely impact low-income and minority students.

"I support efforts to expand the diversity of UC's applicant pool. I am concerned that the proposed changes to the UC eligibility standards that are currently being considered by the UC Regents could have unintended consequences for some of our most vulnerable students--the exact populations any diversity efforts should address." Stated Assemblymember Warren T. Furutani (D – Long Beach), "By simply postponing action on this important matter, the UC Regents and our communities can have a fuller discussion toward shaping a Freshman Eligibility policy that will in fact reflect this state's great diversity."

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